**Comments: Environmental Critical Areas Review** 

May 20, 2013

Mayor Odell and Council Members;

I have spoken before and so will keep my comments brief. Our city staff and you as a council have done a good job of managing our financial interests by balancing the budget and investing wisely. As a result we are sitting pretty compared to many cities in the country. So it is quite ironic that the council is now considering making a decision that will put at risk the city's greatest asset of all, an asset upon which all our prosperity is based, greater by far than all the money we have now or will ever have; our land and sensitive resources.

The land we rest upon and the beauty that surrounds us is not a commodity that can be used without applying the same conservative wisdom we apply to managing our money. Damages that happen to the land and water can easily endanger our financial security, our property values, leave scars on the land that will injure our reputation, and put the jewel of Lake Sammamish in jeopardy. Best Available Science has protected us up until now. But proposed changes to the Erosion Hazard Overlay endanger our city's prosperity by going against what the science tells us. It is up to this council to determine whether we stay our current course, one that has worked well to preserve what we have, or go down an unknown, unstable path that is literally on a steep slope. The legacy of this council and the future of our city are in your hands tonight. Will you vote in the interest of the public, or will you vote to benefit a few at our expense?

Please protect our prosperity with the same conservative diligence you show in managing our money.

Thank you for listening,

Ilene Stahl 21553 SE 28<sup>th</sup> Lane Sammamish, WA 98075

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